

KANSAS AGITATOR.

GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP OF NATURAL MONOPOLIES

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KANSAS AGITATOR

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THAT PIANO

During the AGITATOR'S recent piano contest, a number of persons took special pains to discourage the contestants by saying that they were wasting their time, as no piano would be given away. And now that the piano is really in the possession of the lucky contestant, Mrs. Lucy Bell, some of these same people are continuing to circulate their falsehoods. Only a few days ago, a certain woman of this city told a friend of ours that no piano had been received by any one; that "the whole thing was a great big fake."

We refer those interested to Mr. Murdock, of whom we purchased the piano; and if that is not sufficient evidence, you are invited to call at the home of Mrs. Bell, north of town, and there you will find one of the handsomest and finest-toned pianos in Anderson county. It is no cheap "prize-package" affair, either, but a splendid, high-grade instrument, and would be an ornament to any home.

It is said that jealousy often causes people to lie. It certainly seems so in this case.

The AGITATOR always endeavors to live up to its promises,

Editorial Etchings from the Coming Nation.

Think well of others, and they will think well of you.

If you want to effectively boycott the boss, do it at the ballot-box.

Not all good men in the world are Socialists, and all Socialists are not good men.

Socialism will give the people time to make some use of the fine libraries Carnegie is building with their unpaid labor.

If thoughts were real material things, what a lot of filth there would be in the world. The scavenger wouldn't have any snap.

Socialism is a conscious protest against the system that allows the capitalist class to confiscate the earnings of the working class.

We are told that "money talks." I presume a twenty-dollar gold piece is a fine conversationalist. I don't know—it doesn't move in my "set."

The hope that they may some day be masters is what makes men slaves. And as long as the capitalists can keep this hope alive in the hearts of their slaves, they have nothing to fear from them.

There is ten billion dollars on deposit in the banks of this country—five times as much as all the gold and silver and paper money in the United States. The average man sees nothing incongruous in this statement. He points to it as an evidence of prosperity. He does not consider the fact of importance that for every dollar of actual money in circulation, the American people are paying interest on at least five to these banks, who have been entrusted with the coin of the realm.

EIGHTEEN Negroes were killed in a race war at Kentwood, Louisiana, Monday. A Negro assaulted a white woman, which angered the whites, who lynched the man who committed the deed. This caused an uprising of the blacks. Both sides armed themselves, and a war ensued, in which eighteen Negroes were killed and several whites wounded.

THE street-car strikers of Chicago are after Mayor Harrison with a sharp stick. They say he is taking the side of the company as against them.

CO-OPERATION

SAMUEL V. COLE, IN YOUTH'S COMPANION

"Come," said the little Ether-Atoms.
"Let us cling together and march together.
Millions and millions and millions are we;
Let us form and march like the waves of the sea.
With shoulder to shoulder, hand linked in hand,
Line behind line of us. Here we stand!
Steady, there! Wait for the word of command.
Steady, my comrades! Is everything right?
Now, all as one of us, into the night!"
So they clung together and marched together.
And the world was filled with light.

"Come," said the little Vibrations-in-Air.
"Let us cling together and work together.
Starting not off on our separate tracks,
But all within touch, that whatever each lacks,
The rest may supply, and that each, great or small,
May something contribute—to soar, run or crawl—
Toward the one common end, there is work for us all;
And mingling our efforts, the weak with the strong,
Break we a path through the silence along!"
So they clung together and helped one another.
And the world was filled with song.

"And now," said the children of men on earth.
"Let us cling together and work together.
And help one another and turn our words
Into golden action, and sheathe our swords!
Let us tunnel the mountain, span the plain,
Stretch hands to each other across the main.
And each man's wealth be for all men's gain;
Then, unto his neighbor let everyone
Say, 'Be of good courage,' and let the word run."
So they clung close together, and, lo, as in Heaven,
His will upon earth was done.

Time to Investigate.

From the Topeka State Journal.

The disclosures of the past few days in regard to forgery of the name of Sidney Blake-man to warrants and to the warrant register in the state auditor's office have made several facts plain. One is that the business end of a legislature is conducted in an exceedingly slipshod manner, notwithstanding the army of employees in both houses. Another thing that it was possible for those who knew the methods used to draw warrants in the names of men who were not in Topeka at all, and cash them at the state treasury without identification, and that this very thing was done. Another thing is that the names were placed upon the pay-rolls without authority and without any record being made of who was responsible for them or in what capacity they served, if they ever served at all.

These disclosures certainly call for still further investigations. It is due the people of Kansas that this affair be aired. It is especially due the honest people who were in the legislature that the dishonest ones be shown up and the honest ones freed from suspicion. And the state of Kansas owes it to itself to hunt down the forgers, the thieves and the grafters, and put them behind the bars.

The investigation should be no half-hearted affair, and it should be made without fear or favor. The fact that it might involve some particular person should not enter into the affair at all. It should be made just as searching as the postoffice investigation has been made in national affairs. And in this connection, a letter of President Roosevelt's to a certain congressman, in connection with the postoffice investigation, would serve as good instructions for an investigation of the legislative forgeries. The letter is very characteristic of President

Roosevelt. His directions are: "Anyone who is guilty is to be prosecuted with the utmost rigor of the law, and no one who is not guilty is to be touched. I care not for the political or social influence of any human being when the question is one of his guilt or innocence in such matters as the corruption of the government service."

Let there be a thorough, searching investigation of the legislative pay-roll and the persons who are responsible for looting the state treasury.

Happy to Go to Jail.

From the New York Evening Telegram.

"Bless you!" said Charles Fischer to the judge who sentenced him to three months in the penitentiary. The charge was that he had stolen an overcoat. No one saw him take the coat, however, and he was complainant against himself.

As Fischer was being taken to jail in New York, N. Y., after his sentence, he seemed overjoyed over the prospect of having a home for three months.

He had been without friends, and told the court he was starving.

THE newspapers have just discovered that there are lots of fake oil companies doing business in southern Kansas. This is one instance in which the common people got ahead of the newspapers. A lot of men who had invested in alleged oil stock found out the fake business before the newspapers mentioned it.—Lawrence Jeffersonian Gazette.

FIVE hundred employees of the Minnesota Iron Company are out of employment through the closing, indefinitely, of the Soudan mine, near Tower.

Where Labor Falls Down.

From The Union, Minneapolis, Minn.

Workingmen, like other people, sometimes make mistakes, and we believe that one of the greatest mistakes they make is in being too ready to give credence to their enemies and to mistrust their friends. They are, in most cases, ready to believe the best of the ones of whom they have the most reason to be suspicious, and too ready to turn their backs upon the ones who have proven themselves their friends, upon the slightest evidence, or no evidence at all. Let one of their own ranks make a mistake, or do an act which they do not thoroughly understand or approve, and they will at once jump to the conclusion that there is something wrong, and that they are being betrayed by the one who has, perhaps, sacrificed all his best years and energies in their cause. It is a serious mistake, and one which the workingmen should correct. They are apt to go to the two extremes—they make either idols or martyrs of their leaders. The popular leader of to-day, whose every word is listened to with the greatest respect, because he has as yet made no mistakes, may be the hooted outcast of to-morrow, because he has thought or spoken differently from what the masses of the organization would have him speak or think. Workingmen must learn to trust their friends, and to stick to them until they are proven beyond doubt to be in the wrong, if they expect to make progress. No army could ever expect to win battles by spending their time and energy attempting to find some fault in their commanders or their comrades, to the neglect of the more important business of watching to see what their enemies were doing. Neither will the spirit of narrowness and jealousy which prompts the workingman to attempt to drag down one of his companions who may, perhaps, be a little better fitted for leadership than the majority, ever bring the workingmen to a condition where they can be a force for their own betterment. Workingmen must learn that it is necessary for them to look to themselves and their own class for any progress they make, and that, until they learn to trust and be loyal to their class for any progress they make, and that, until they learn to trust and be loyal to their class, they will be kept broken up and divided, and will be the victims of the "ruling class," which rules because it is true to its own class and to the interests of that class. Let us not be too swift to condemn a fellow workman, nor to believe everything we hear in regard to him. Let us believe our brothers are honest and sincere in their intentions, even though we may not always think just as they do. Remember, there is just a possibility that they may be right and we may be wrong.

[The above is applicable to reformers along all lines. We are too prone to criticize the reformer who does not adopt our plan of bringing about certain reforms, although both are aiming at the same object.—ED. AGITATOR.]

GOVERNOR JAMES H. PEABODY, of Colorado, was made defendant in two damage suits for \$100,000 each, filed by Patrick H. Mullaney, and Thos. G. Foster, union miners of Cripple Creek, Colo., who were arrested by military officers, and later, released by habeas corpus proceedings. Adjutant-General Sherman Bell, Brigadier-General Chase and Major Thomas McClelland were also made defendants to the suits. The arrests, it is charged, were made as a result of malice, intrigue and conspiracy among the defendants. Suits asking for more than a million dollars in damages will be filed by all those who were imprisoned in the bullpen.—The Unionist, Fort Scott.

THE capitalist, with a bottle of ink and a steel pen, can increase profits faster than the strongest union on earth can increase wages. You can't beat a man at his own game. The only way is to break up the game.—The Carpenter.

R. L. ADAMS.

UNDERTAKING

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